Remarks by S. Robert Powell, read at the launching of the fund raising campaign to restore Carbondale City Hall on December 17, 1981. At 6:50 P.M. SRP read these remarks to the group assembled in the lobby of Carbondale City Hall. At 7:20 P.M. SRP read these same remarks (changing the appropriate verbs from the future tense to the past tense, e.g., "the bell will ring" to "the bell rang") to the group assembled in the City Council chambers on the second floor of Carbondale City Hall.

Carbondale City Hall, designed by Truman I. Lacey and erected under his direction by G. D. Stevens and George H. Tryon, has been the seat of the government of the city of Carbondale since 1894. This building was not erected for the use of one generation or five generations or ten generations. This building was built for all generations, for all time. It is, therefore, the responsibility of every generation of Carbondaleans to maintain and transmit to the following generation a healthy building. It is now our turn to look after City Hall and to make certain that the building that we bequeath to our children is as vigorous as the building that we inherited from our parents. If it is not, it is we who will bear the burden of shame. If it is, it is we who will be credited with having had faith not only in ourselves and in our city, but also in our children and the city that we bequeath to them.

In order to do our part on behalf of this building, therefore, we are gathered here tonight to officially launch a fund raising campaign, whose purpose it is to secure the funds necessary to repair the clock, the outside walls, and the roof of Carbondale City Hall. The Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall is, be it known, an independent group of Carbondale citizens and friends of this building. We are not affiliated with any political party or group. We are not affiliated with any agency of the city, county or state government. Our only allegiance is to this building. The funds that we have already raised,